

**BOROUGH OF OSSETT.**

**1921.**

---

**FORTY-EIGHTH**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

*of the*

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,**

**W. L. RENÉ WOOD, ESQ.**

---

*Together with the*

**ANNUAL REPORT**

*of the*

**INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.**



OSSETT:

S. COCKBURN AND SON, THE BOROUGH PRINTING WORKS  
AND "OBSERVER" OFFICE.



# *Sanitary Committee, 1921.*

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## TO THE SANITARY AUTHORITY OF THE BOROUGH OF OSSETT.

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GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you this, the 48th Annual Report, relating to the Health and Sanitary condition of the Borough; the prevalence of infectious diseases, the various improvements effected during the last twelve months, together with suggestions calculated to remedy existing defects and to guide us in our endeavours to carry out projects of usefulness intimately associated with the health, comfort and well-being of the community.

Oft-repeated inspections, chiefly on the part of your Inspectors, have absorbed considerable time, and numerous defects discovered during these examinations, especially those relating to insufficient closet accommodation, offensive and ill-constructed ashpits and imperfect drainage, have been, as far as possible, remedied, but there still remains much to be done in that direction. I wish especially to point out the urgent need of conversion of privy-middens to water closets. This is being carried out seriatim, but the work requires acceleration in many instances, and with our proposed water scheme in view we may anticipate rapid improvements in this direction.

The proposed new water supply has taken up much time and careful investigation. We procured the leading chemists and geologists in England, and the result of their exhaustive examination of the scheme has been highly satisfactory. We are assured of a constant and abundant supply, chemically and bacteriologically pure, and eminently suitable for both domestic and trade purposes. This undertaking brings into being a new era in the history of the Borough, it eliminates, at once, any possibility of shortage or curtailment of water supply, and removes finally the deplorable difficulties previously experienced during a dry summer.

Any prejudice which may exist in the public mind with regard to the origin of the water may at once be removed by the emphatic assertion of the expert geologist you employed, that the water-bearing rock over the area is of ideal formation—this refers to the “Thornhill rock”—and that any water percolating from the river Calder, if any, passes through alluvial beds of gravel of enormous thickness, an ideal state of things for filtration purposes. To quote the words of Mr. Chaston Chapman, F.I.C., F.R.S., President of the Institute of Chemistry, “The chemical results show the water to be of a high degree of organic purity, and the absence of harmful micro-organisms—a very satisfactory state of things.”

The vital statistics for the year are very satisfactory taking into consideration the abnormal drought. We were again free from epidemics with regard to infectious disease. Diarrhœa, unfortunately, obtained alarming proportions throughout the whole country and accounted for many deaths, both in adults and children. This was particularly the case amongst infants under one year and contributed largely to the increase of infantile deaths.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.—Population at the census of 1921, 14,802. Estimated for 1922 (Registrar-General's return), 15,050.

The last figure must necessarily be fictitious, the average number of inhabitants per house being increased by unavoidable overcrowding, which has been but little relieved as yet, save by insidious emigration due to variations in local trade. Migration into the district was considerable during the latter years of the war. All available factors lead me to the conclusion that the figure is near although probably a little above the mark.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.—The Borough of Ossett is a widely scattered district, with houses built in groups at considerable distances apart. It consists to a considerable extent of agricultural

land and comprises an area of 3,332 acres.' The district is elevated, the highest point being at Gawthorpe, to the N.W. about 400ft. above sea-level. The Central portion of the town is 300ft. high. The Northern part slopes gradually to the N.E., draining into Bushy Beck. On the West, the slope is more abrupt, to the Chickenley and Pildacre Becks. The Southern boundary is formed by the River Calder, flowing from W. to E., towards which the lands slopes rapidly. There is a more gradual inclination in the direction of the South-Eastern boundary to Whitley Spring Beck. Outfall sewage works are situated at Healey and the Spa and to these points the sewage of the district is conveyed by gravitation.

The Geological formation belongs to the coal measure series and consists of sandstone and shale, with beds of coal. Sandstone rock crowns the summits of the various elevations and the surface soil partakes of the nature of the underlying rock, being sandy and stony, but it is clayey in parts when it is derived from the disintegration of shale.

**SOCIAL CONDITIONS.**—Ossett is primarily an industrial town. The staple industry consists in the making of shoddy and mungo. The rag trade is responsible for the employment of a large proportion of the inhabitants, and this involves a very considerable amount of female labour. No ill effects to health can be attributed to this industry, although the presence of free Chlorine and Sulphurous acid in the air as the result of carbonizing of rags is distinctly injurious to vegetable life. A destructive change takes place in the teeth of those most directly in contact with carbonizing and this may possibly account to some extent for the generally bad state of teeth noticed in the inhabitants. The remainder of the workers amongst the population find employment in the coal mines and a small percentage in agriculture.

**RATEABLE VALUE.**—The rateable value of property within the Borough amounts to £65,039 2s. 6d. A penny rate realises the sum of £258 for Poor Rate and £244 District Rate.

**PARLIAMENTARY VOTERS.**—The number of voters on the Parliamentary Register for Ossett for the year 1922 is: Autumn Register, Local Government 6,234; Parliamentary 7,374.



**POOR-LAW RELIEF.**—The amount expended in outdoor relief in the Borough during the year ending December 31st, 1921, was £1,681 17s. 2d. Apart from the Poor-law, gratuitous medical relief is obtained from the Dewsbury and Wakefield Hospitals. Further gratuitous medical relief is also obtained from the Bradford and Leeds Infirmarys in some cases.

**METEOROLOGY.**—Rainfall for the year: January 2.82 ins., February .19, March .87, April .82, May .91, June .15, July .49, August 3.77, September .75, October 1.05, November 1.80, December 3.15, Total 16.78 inches.

Average daily temperature 48.6 degrees Fahr. The prevailing wind, westerly, this being the direction for about nine months in the year.

**SEWAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.**—I am indebted to the Borough Engineer for most of this information.

**SEWAGE WORKS, SPA.**—Places drained to Outfall. Area drained, 1,950 acres. Population drained, 9,000.

**WATER CONSUMPTION.**—Domestic, 80,821,217 gallons per annum; Trade 57,786,000. Number of Water Closets, 1,017.

**FLOW OF SEWAGE.**—Daily volume (average dry weather flow), 807,400 gallons. Estimated by gaugings.

**TRADE EFFLUENTS.**—Proportionate volume, 631,400 gallons. Chiefly from dye-pans.

**STORM WATER.**—Combined system of sewerage. There are 4 storm overflows. Fixed weirs. Storm water purified in tanks.

**OUTFALL WORKS AT HEALEY.**—Area drained, 1,250 acres. Population drained, 4,000.

**WATER CONSUMPTION.**—Domestic and trade: No separate record.

**FLOW OF SEWAGE.**—Daily volume (average dry weather flow), 308,500 gallons. Estimated by gaugings.

**TRADE EFFLUENTS.**—Proportionate volume, 232,000 gallons. Chiefly from dye-pans.



STORM WATER.—Combined system. There are 4 storm overflows. Fixed weirs. Purified by land filtration.

NEW SEWERS.—The following were constructed during the year. All in connection with the Housing Schemes. 280 yards of 9-inch.

POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS.—The Authority exercising supervision is the West Riding Rivers Board. The result of frequent inspection during the year has been satisfactory. Means have generally been taken and adopted by manufacturers to prevent pollution. No complaints have been received.

CONVERSION OF EARTH CLOSETS TO WATER CLOSETS.—This remained in abeyance during the war. The matter of conversion is now being considered and considerable progress is expected next year.

#### VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.—There were 340 births notified during the year (as compared with 399 in the previous year).

			Males	Females
Legitimate	...	...	157	159
Illegitimate	...	...	14	10

This gives a birth-rate of 22.59 per 1,000 per annum, against that of 25.4 in 1920.

DEATHS.—The number of deaths registered in the district were 219, occurring as follows: Males 108, Females 111, giving a nett death-rate of 12.22 per 1,000 per annum. 25 deaths occurred of residents outside the district, that is a corrected death-rate of 13.81 per 1,000 per annum. 41 deaths took place in infants under one year.

			Males	Females
Legitimate	...	...	29	12
Illegitimate	...	...	2	3

Resulting in an infantile mortality of 120 per 1,000 births.

There were 17 still-born Children during the year.

I herewith append the vital statistics for 1921, as compiled from the recently issued report of the Registrar-General:—

# Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the year 1921.

(Provisional figures. Populations as enumerated in 1921 have been used for the purposes of this Table. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns).

	BIRTH-RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULA- TION.	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.									RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS.		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS.			
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 Years).	Total Deaths under One Year.	Deaths in Public Institutions.	Certified Causes of Death.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.
—	22.4	12.1	0 02	0 00	0 06	0 03	0 12	0 12	0 23	0 44	15.5	83	25.5	92.5	6.4	1.1
England and Wales .. .. .	23.3	12.3	0 01	0 00	0 08	0 04	0 13	0 15	0 23	0 40	19.3	87	33.2	92.5	6.8	0.7
96 Great Towns, including London (Census Populations exceeding 50,000) .. .. .	22.7	11.3	0 01	0 00	0 05	0 03	0 11	0 11	0 26	0 35	15.6	84	17.7	93.5	5.1	1.4
148 Smaller Towns (Census Popula- tions 20,000—50,000) .. .. .	22.3	12.4	0 01	0 00	0 05	0 06	0 12	0 25	0 23	0 42	21.3	80	49.2	91.6	8.2	0.2
London .. .. .	22.5	13.22	0 00	0 00	0 00	0 00	0 39	0 00	0 26	0 53	0 39	120	10.2	96.3	3.2	0.2
Ossett .. .. .																

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—Forty-one deaths occurred in infants under one year, giving an infantile mortality of 120 per 1,000 births. This increase over last year is largely due to the prevalence of Diarrhœa during the summer months and to the unusual number of deaths from Pneumonia and Bronchitis. You will note that deaths due to Debility, Marasmus and Premature Birth are much reduced, and one may conclude that had the year been less abnormal as regards weather and drought the figures would have been much reduced. It is an interesting fact that of the number of children who died 32 did not attend the Child Welfare. I append an analysis which should be of interest:—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—Fifty-four cases were notified as follows: Scarlet Fever 30, Diphtheria 16, Erysipelas 6, Enteric 1, Ophthalmia Neonatorum 1.

The year has been remarkably free from infectious disease, and although the majority of cases occurred in the East ward nothing approaching an epidemic was ever contemplated. Early removal to hospital and prompt disinfection probably played an important part in combating the spread of these diseases. I wish again to strongly urge the necessity of immediate isolation of suspected cases of Diphtheria. The tendency is to wait for a positive swab, a practice which might lead to very serious consequences.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied free by the Corporation, under the Diphtheria Antitoxin (outside London) Order, 1910, to medical men on request.

Bacteriological aid is readily available at the West Riding Medical Officer of Health's Laboratories.

Disinfection has been stringently carried out in all cases.

Although not compulsory, removal of all cases of infectious diseases to hospital is strongly advised where complete isolation at home is not possible.

VACCINATION.—The number of primary Vaccinations done during the year was 82. The percentage of vaccinated children is



still extremely low, and this becomes a source of danger to the community, especially where one considers the prevalence of Smallpox in the West Riding.

Of the non-notifiable infectious diseases Pneumonia was the most prevalent and caused 28 deaths. Influenza accounted for four deaths.

**MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.**—The centre has become more popular during the last year, and incalculable help has been given by the honorary officials and members of the Ladies' Committee. The new premises are eminently suitable for the work, and our thanks are due to the Trustees of the Chapel for allowing us to use the schoolroom and for their kind consideration. Co-operation with the Municipal Committee has resulted in very satisfactory working arrangements.

Distress in the district became a great financial strain on the resources available, and all concerned much appreciate the help to be given through the Mayor's Fund.

Several children having attained the age of 5 have been passed on to the Education Authority and School Medical Service.

An agreement exists with the Wakefield Maternity Hospital for the admission of difficult and complicated cases of labour; this is under the control of the Medical Officer of Health.

**HOUSING.**—Housing schemes have progressed satisfactory, and have considerably relieved the demand for houses. I append a report of the work done during the year.

**SCAVENGING, REFUSE REMOVAL.**—The work has generally been well in hand, but could be greatly improved if more horses and carts were available. The condition of the roads in the Borough has been satisfactory.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

W. L. RENE WOOD,

Medical Officer of Health.



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APPENDIX A.

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TABLE C.

## NUISANCE INSPECTIONS—

Total No. of Inspections made in 1921, for Nuisances only—  
2,554.

Nuisances reported in 1921—540. Total needing abatement  
—546.

Nuisances in hand, end of 1920—6. Abated during 1921—  
535.

Outstanding, end of 1921—11.

Notices served, informal—157. Complied with—150.

Notices served, Statutory—17. Complied with—16.

Total number of Summonses or other legal proceedings—  
None.

Regulated Buildings, Trades, etc.	No. in District.	No. on Register.	No. of Inspec- tions made.	General Condi- tion.	Legal ceedings (if any).
Common Lodging Houses ...	0	0	0	—	—
Houses let in Lodgings ...	0	0	0	—	—
Canal Boats ... ..	0	0	0	—	—
Knackers Yards ... ..	0	0	0	—	—
Tents, Vans & Sheds ...	0	0	0	—	—
Offensive Trades ... ..	11	11	142	Good	—

(2 Fellmongers, 1 Gut Scraper, 3 Tripe Boilers).

Have the Council declared any other processes to be offen-  
sive trades?—No.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE—

Any developments during 1921?—No.

Developments still needed as to (a) Want of sewers?—No.  
(b) Improvement of defective sewers?—No.

Any inadequacy of Sewage Disposal Works or complaints  
relating thereto?—No.

Are there any sink wastes still needing disconnection?—No.

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION—

No. of Privies with open middens—8. No. of Pail or Tub  
Closets—None.

No. of Privies with covered middens—1,366. No. of Water  
Closets—1,116. Waste-water Closets—80.

No. of Privies re-constructed during 1921 (a) as w.c.'s—27;  
(b) other—None.

No. of additional Closets provided for old property in 1921  
(a) W.c.'s—9; (b) other—None.

No. of Closets constructed in 1921 for new houses (a) w.c.'s—47; (b) other—None.

#### SCAVENGING—

Any change during 1921?—No.

Performed by (a) Council—Yes; (b) Contractor—No.

How is refuse disposed of?—No. of loads to (a) Destructor—2,749 tons, 9 cwts; (b) Tips—2,813; (c) Farmers—1,178; Total annual cost—£1,787 18s. 11d.

Is there any inadequacy, and where?—No.

Any utilisation or salvage of waste material, if so, what?—Sale of Scrap Iron, etc.

#### WATER SUPPLY—

Any developments during 1921?—Scheme for utilisation of Water at Pildacre Pit.

Was supply restricted owing to drought?—No.

Any general insufficiency, and where?—Not at present owing to bad trade.

Any action in regard to unsatisfactory quality, and where?—No.

Any new sources added?—Proposed.

#### MILK SUPPLY—

No. of samples taken by Officers of S.A. for analysis under F. & D. Acts—15. No. adulterated—2.

No. of samples taken by Officers of S.A. for bacteriological examination—None.

What arrangements for periodical Veterinary Inspection of dairy cows?—Called in when necessary.

Any instance of disease attributed to milk in 1921?—No.

No. of Cowkeepers in district—34. No. Registered—34.

No. of Retail Milk Sellers who are also Cowkeepers—31. No. who are Milk Retailers only—3. Total No. of Milk Sellers Registered—37.

Total No. of Cowsheds—36. Total No. of Inspections in 1921—221.

Date of Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Regulations—1st March, 1907. Any Legal Action?—No (two warnings from W.R.C.C.).

Any Inspection or other action by Districts to which Milk is sent?—No.

Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1919. Any action?—No.

## OTHER FOODS—

No. of samples (other than Milk) taken by Officer of S.A. for examination under the Foods and Drugs Acts—5.  
No. adulterated—None.

No. of seizures of unsound food—None. Kind and quantity—None. No. of Prosecutions—None.

If any Public Abattoir?—No. What accommodation?—None.

No. of Slaughterhouses—13. No. Registered—1. No. Licensed—12. No. unsatisfactory, structurally, or in bad position?—None.

Times each Slaughterhouse was inspected—20. Total No. of Inspections—260.

No. of Prosecutions (a) Food and Drugs—None; (b) Unsound Food—None; (c) re Slaughter Houses—None.

Bakehouses, No.—13. Total No. of Inspections—148.

## SCHOOLS—

No. of Schools visited by M.O.H.—All frequently.

Action taken—Disinfections after infectious disease. Schools closed—None.

## FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS—

No. of Smoke observations taken—45. No. of Cautions—2. Legal Notices—None. Summonses—None.

No. of Workshops—157. Times each Workshop was inspected—2. Total inspections—314.

Any Industrial Welfare Workers appointed?—No.

## ADOPTIVE ACTS—

Acts adopted during 1921—None.

## BYELAWS AND REGULATIONS—

Any Bye-Laws made under Section 26 of Housing and Town Planning Act?—No.

Any others adopted or revised during 1921?—No.

Any relaxation of Bye-Laws under Section 24 of Housing and Town Planning Act, 1919?—No.

## INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES—

What diseases have been specially prevalent in 1921?—No epidemic.

Any diseases specially added to notifiable list?—None.

Any influences threatening the health of the District?—None.

Any prevalence of Venereal Diseases?—Slight.



## HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS—

- (a) General: Accident—None.
- (b) Local: Smallpox.
- (c) Maternity—None.
- (d) Clinic and Treatment Centre not provided by County Council Scheme—Yes.

Whether any other disease (e.g., Pneumonia) is treated in Infectious Diseases Hospital—No.

## TUBERCULOSIS—

- (1) Inspection of patient's home and workshop—Frequently.
- (2) Examination for contacts—Yes.
- (3) Is house disinfected?—Yes. When?—periodically and at death.  
Leaflets, Lectures, etc., distributed?—In all cases.
- (5) Action respitting—Flasks provided.
- (6) Is sputum examined apart from Dispensary?—Yes.
- (7) Any special procedure adopted in cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis with T.B. in sputum?—Removal to Sanatorium when possible.
- (8) Are the requirements of Tuberculosis Regulations as to notification observed by general practitioners?—Yes.

## BACTERIOLOGY—

(County Laboratory) Any suggestions?—No.

## INFANT MORTALITY—

Any suggestions?—None.

What organised effort to control it?—Child Welfare and Nurse.

Any voluntary Centres for Child or Mother Welfare?—Yes.

Causes of any excessive Infant Mortality in 1921—Diarrhoea and Pneumonia.

Suggestions will be welcomed regarding (a) Maternity and Infant Welfare Schemes—More financial assistance.  
(b) Ante-natal Schemes?—Yes.

## VITAL STATISTICS—

Births during 1921—Males 171; Females—169; Total—340.  
No. illegitimate included in above—24. No. of Still Births (not included)—17.

Deaths during 1921—(1) Gross Deaths, i.e., Total actually registered in the District without any correction—219.

(2) Nett Deaths on which the rates are calculated—  
Males 108; Females 111. No. of Uncertified deaths  
(included above)—2.

#### MORTUARIES—

What accommodation (a) for accidents—One; (b) for infectious cases other than at hospital—None; (c) for other purposes—None.

#### SANITARY STAFF—

What is the present Annual Salary of the M.O.H.?—£70.  
Name of Sanitary Inspector—C. Firth.  
Annual Salary as Inspector—£325.  
Other appointments held—None.

#### CLINICS—

Any suggestions (a) Tuberculosis—No; (b) Venereal Diseases—No; (c) Child Welfare—No; (d) Ante-Natal—No; (e) School—No; (f) Dental—Additional facilities required.

#### ANY REMARKS as to—

- (a) Voluntary Agencies for social betterment?—No.
- (b) District Nursing Association?—No.
- (c) Any Dispensary?—No.
- (d) Health Visiting?—No.
- (e) Tuberculosis, Home Visiting?—No.
- (f) Dental Services?—As above.
- (g) Midwifery Services?—No.

#### HOUSING—

No. of Certificates given under Increase of Rent (Restriction) Act, 1920, Sec. 2 (2)—None.

(Signed) W. L. RENE WOOD,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1921 and Previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Uncor- rected Number. 3	Nett.		Number. 6	Rate. 7	of Non- residents registered in the District. 8	of Residents not registered in the District. 9	Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages.	
			Number. 4	Rate. 5					Number. 10	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births. 11		
											Number. 12	Rate. 13
1915	14,515		316	23·86	213	14·84		15	42	132	228	15·87
1916	14,345		315	21·95	210	14·63		17	32	101	227	15·82
1917	14,345		273	19·03	188	13·10		29	23	84	217	15·12
1918	14,345		268	18·06	233	15·17		20	27	100	253	17·06
1919	14,550		262	18·26	231	16·10		23	26	111	254	17·70
1920	14,081		399	25·40	207	13·40		18	35	83	223	15·82
1921	14,050		340	22·59	185	12·22		25	41	120	219	13·81

Area of District in acres  
(land and inland water).  
3332

Total population at all ages ..... 14,802  
Total families or separate occupiers ... 3,793  
Total Rooms in use ..... 12,915  
Buildings not for habitation ..... 598  
Buildings in course of erection ..... 57  
At Census of 1921.

TABLE II.  
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1921.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.				TOTAL CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					North Ward.	Central Ward.	East Ward.	West Ward.		
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.					45 to 65.	
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup) }	16	3	11	1	1	1		1	2	12	1	10
Erysipelas .. ..	6		1	1	1	2		1	1	2	3	
Scarlet fever .. ..	30	7	17	4	2	2	8	9	10	3		18
Enteric Fever .. ..	1				1			1				1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	10	1	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	2		
Ophthalmic Neonatorum ..	1	1							1			
Totals .. ..	64	1	31	8	7	4	12	15	28	9		29

Isolation Hospital—Smallpox Hospital, Storrs Hill Road, Ossett.                      Total available beds 8.  
Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated—one.



TABLE III.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1921.

DEATHS AT ALL AGES.					CAUSE OF DEATH.	ANALYSIS OF NETT DEATHS ACCORDING TO AGE.								
(a) Actually Registered in the District.				(b) Transferred to the District from outside.		Under 1.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and over.	Totals.
Private Residents.		Inmates of Public Institutions.												
Belonging to the District.	To be transferred away.	Belonging to the District.	To be transferred away.											
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	
					Enteric Fever .. ..									
					Measles .. ..									
					Whooping Cough ..	3		2	1					6
					Diphtheria and croup									
					Influenza .. ..		1			1		1	1	4
				1	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System			1	2	2	2	2	1	10
					Tuberculous Meningitis ..									
				1	Other tuberculous diseases .. ..		1							2
					Cancer, malignant disease .. ..						4	12	9	25
					Rheumatic Fever ..							1		1
					Meningitis ..									
					Diabetes .. ..						1			1
				2	Cerebral Haemorage, etc.						1	5	8	16
				3	Heart Disease ..				1	2	2	9	8	25
					Arterio Sclerosis ..							1	2	3
					Bronchitis ..	3						1	4	8
				1	Pneumonia (all forms)	7	4	1	3	2	1	6	3	28
					Other respiratory diseases .. ..					1				1
					Ulcer on Stomach or Duodenum ..						1			1
					Diarrhœa, etc., (under 2 years) .. ..	5	1							6
					Appendicitis and Typhlitis .. ..				1		1			2
					Nephritis and Bright's Disease ..									
					Cirrhosis of Liver..							1		1
				3	Acute and Chronic Nephritis .. ..						1	4	2	10
				1	Puerperal Sepsis ..									1
					Other Acc. & Dis. of Pregnancy & Parturition .. ..					1				1
					Congenital Debility and Malformation including Premature Birth .. ..	10								10
					Suicides .. ..							1	1	2
				4	Violent Deaths (excluding Suicides) ..						1		1	6
				9	Other Defined Diseases	13				1	8	3	15	49
					Ill-defined or unknown Diseases ..									
				25	TOTALS .. ..	41	7	3	8	10	23	47	55	219



## INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1921.

DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES IN WEEKS AND MONTHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

CAUSES OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
ALL CAUSES.	{ Certified ... Uncertified ...										
Common Infectious Diseases.	{ Small-pox ... Chicken-pox ... Measles ... Scarlet Fever ... Whooping Cough ... Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)							1	1	1	3
	Erysipelas ...						1				1
Tuberculous Diseases.	{ Tuberculous Meningitis ... Abdominal Tuberculosis .. Other Tuberculous Diseases ...										
	Meningitis ... (not Tuberculous)									1	1
	Convulsions ...	1				1	1		1		4
	Laryngitis ...										
	Bronchitis ...				1	1		1			3
	Pneumonia (all forms)				1	1		1	3	2	7
Diarrhoeal Diseases.	{ Diarrhoea, all forms Enteritis ... (not Tuberculous)							4		1	5 1
	Gastritis ...										
	Syphilis ...							1			1
	Rickets ...										
	Suffocation, overlaying Atelectasis ...										
Wasting Diseases.	{ Injury at Birth ... Congenital Malformations ... Premature Birth .. Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ...	2 5 1		2		4 5 1 1	2		1	4	2 5 2 6
	Other Causes ...										
TOTALS ...		9		2	3	14	3	9	10	5	41

Births in the year	{ legitimate ...	340
	{ illegitimate...	24

Deaths in the year	{	legitimate infants ...	36
	{	illegitimate infants...	5

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS, 1921.

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Population at Census of 1921, 14,802.

Number of occupied houses at Census of 1921, 3,793.

Area of Borough (in acres), 3,332.

Density of Population (i.e., number of persons per acre), 4.4.

Number of Births—Males, 171.

Females, 160.

Illegitimate, 24.

Birth-rate per 1,000 living, 22.59.

Number of Deaths—Males, 108.

Females, 111.

Illegitimate, 5.

Death-rate per 1,000 living, 13.81.

Death-rate from seven principal Zymotic Diseases per 1,000 living, .66.

Phthisis Death-rate, .66.

Death-rate per 1,000 from other forms of Tubercular Diseases, .13.

Death-rate from all forms of Tubercular Diseases, including Phthisis, .78.

Death-rate from Respiratory Diseases other than Tuberculosis, 2.4.

Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Births, 120.



TABLE V.  
INFANTILE DEATHS.

	Attended by Medical Man.	Attended by Certified Midwife.	Attended by Uncertified Midwife—Doctor sent for later.	Nature of Labour. N—Normal. D—Difficult.	Mother's Occupation.	Date when ceased work—months before labour.	Date when resumed work—months after labour.	Breast fed.	Kind of Food.	Artificially fed.	Number of Children in family	Position of Child or Family.	Number of Children living.	Number of Children dead.	Attended Child Welfare.	Cause of death.
1	Yes			D				Yes			1	1			No	Erysipelas of Scrotum
2	Yes			N				Yes			9	9	7	2	No	Premature Birth
3		Yes		N	Weaver	5	6		Cow's Milk	Yes	2	2		1	No	Convulsions
4	Yes			D					Dried Milk	Yes	1	1		1	No	Marasmus
5	Yes			D					Proprietary	Yes	2	2		2	No	Enteritis
6		Yes		N					Sweetened	Yes	5	5	3	2	No	Broncho-Pneumonia
7	Yes			N					Cow's Milk	Yes	8	8	7	1	No	Broncho-Pneumonia
8	Yes			N	Millhand	1		Yes			3	3	1	2	No	Congenital Syphilitis
9		Yes		N					Sweetened	Yes	1	1		1	No	Marasmus
10	Yes			D				Yes			1	1		1	No	Premature Birth
11		Yes		N				Yes			11	11	5	6	Yes	Broncho-Pneumonia
12	Yes			N	Packer			Yes			1	1		1	Yes	Broncho-Pneumonia
13		Yes		N				Yes			1	1		1	Yes	Bronchitis
14	Yes			N				Yes			3	3	2	1	No	Lobar Pneumonia
15	Yes			D				Yes			2	2	1	1	No	Valvular defect of Heart
16	Yes			N				Yes			3	3	2	1	No	Broncho-Pneumonia
17	Yes			D					Cow's Milk	Yes	3	3	2	1	No	Congenital Weakness
18	Yes			N				?	?	?	3	3	1	2	No	Malformation of Heart
19	Yes			N				Yes			7	7	6	1	Yes	Broncho-Pneumonia
20	Yes			D				Yes			2	2		2	No	Congenital Malformation
21	Yes			N	?				Malted Food	Yes	3	3	2	1	No	Meningitis
22	Yes			N				?		?	6	6	5	1	No	Convulsions
23	Yes			N				Yes			3	3	2	1	No	Whooping Cough
24	Yes			N				?		?	1	1	0	1	No	Premature Birth
25	Yes			N					Cow's Milk	Yes	8	8	5	3	No	Whooping Cough
26	Yes			N				Yes			1	1	0	1	No	Broncho-Pneumonia
27	Yes			N					Dried Milk	Yes	9	9	7	2	No	Diarrhœa
28	Yes			N					Cow & Malted	Yes	8	8	5	3	Yes	Diarrhœa
29	Yes			N				Yes			1	1		1	No	Diarrhœa
30	Yes			N					Dried Milk	Yes	1	1		1	No	Erysipelas
31		Yes		N				Yes			1	1		1	No	Diarrhœa
32	Yes			N				Yes			2	2	1	1	Yes	Premature Birth
33	Yes			N				Yes			3	3	2	1	No	Diarrhœa
34	No particulars of birth, adopted from other town.									Yes					Yes	Diarrhœa
35	Yes			D				Yes			2	2	1	1	Yes	Diarrhœa
36	Yes			N					Cow's Milk	Yes	4	4	3	1	No	Malformation
37	Yes			N	Rag Sorter	1		Part	Sweetened Milk	Part	2	2	1	1	No	Malnutrition
38	Yes			N				Yes			1	1	0	1	No	Whooping Cough
39		Yes		N	Ripper	?	?	Yes			1	1		1	No	Congenital Weakness
40	Yes			N				?			3	3	2	1	No	Premature Birth
41	Yes			D				Yes			2	2	1	1	Yes	Convulsions

N.B.—D = Difficult or Instrumental Labour.  
N = Normal Labour.  
Attended Welfare ... 9  
Did not attend Welfare ... 32

Breast Fed Children ... 22  
Artificially Fed ... 14  
Part Breast, part Artificially Fed 1  
Information not obtained ... 4





SUMMARY OF HOUSING WORK DURING 1921.

Table showing action under Sections 15, 17, and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909, Section 28 of the 1919 Act, and the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, dated September 2nd, 1910, or matters arising therefrom.

Houses with defects not disposed of at end of 1920.					Action under (Section 15) 1919 or (Section 28) 1919.					Action under P.H. Acts in cases of houses with minor defects not remediable under (Section 28) 1919.				Action under (Section 17) 1909.										Appeals.				Houses with defects not disposed of at end of 1921.		
Houses not reasonably fit for human habitation, (Section 15) 1909, or (Section 28) 1919.	Houses totally unfit for human habitation, (Section 17) 1909.	Houses with minor defects. (Public Health Acts).	Houses inspected under the Act and regulations in 1921.	Houses found satisfactory on inspection.	Houses found not reasonably fit for human habitation.	Houses for which notices were given to execute works.	Houses in respect of which notices were satisfactorily complied with.	Houses in respect of which the Local Authority executed or were executing works in default of landlord.	Houses in respect of which landlord elected to close house instead of complying with notices.	Houses found with defects.	Houses made fit after preliminary notice.	Houses in regard to which notices were served to remedy defects.	Houses made fit after notice.	Houses found to be totally unfit for habitation.	Houses represented to Local Authority as being totally unfit for human habitation.	Houses made fit for human habitation without the issue of a closing order.	Houses closed voluntarily.	Houses in respect of which closing orders were made.	Houses closed as unfit for human habitation after closing orders were made.	Houses made fit for human habitation after closing order was made, for which the Local Authority determined the order.	Houses demolished voluntarily.	Houses for which demolition orders were made.	Houses demolished compulsorily.	Appeals against notices under (Section 15) 1909, or (Section 28) 1919.	Appeals against closing orders under Section 17, 1909.	Appeals under Section 17 (6) 1909, refusing to determine closing orders.	Appeals against demolition orders Section 18 (2) 1919.	Houses not reasonably fit for human habitation, (Section 15) 1909, or (Section 28) 1919.	Houses totally unfit for human habitation. (Section 17) 1909.	Houses with minor defects. (Public Health Acts.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
0	0	5	103	31	0	0	0	0	0	72	61	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11

OTHER ACTION IN REGARD TO HOUSING :—

Total number of houses in district.—3,793. Number of working-class houses.—3,428. General standard compared with that of the Ministry of Health in Manual Vol. I., 1919.—Good.

Obstructive Buildings.—Any building represented by M.O.H. under Sec. 38 (1) of 1890 Act?—No.

Result of action (if any).—None.

Any building represented by Inhabitant Householders under Sec. 38 (2) of 1890 Act?—No.

Unhealthy Areas.—Any representations under part I or II. of the 1890 Act? If so, give particulars.—No.

Re-construction Scheme.—Have L.A. directed any to be prepared under Sec. 39 of 1890 Act?—No.

Conversion of Houses.—Any houses required for division into separate tenements, under the 1919 Act? If so, give particulars.—No.



*Unfit Houses.*—Any complaints by Inhabitant Householders under Sec. 31 of 1890 Act?—No.

Do. Any complaints by Parish Council under Sec. 6 (2) of the Local Government Act, 1894?—No.

Any action by Public Utility Societies?—No.

Any action under Small Dwellings Acquisition Act, 1899?—No.

Any scarcity of houses, if so, where?—All over the district.

Any overcrowding of persons in houses, and where?—Isolated cases.

No. of cases of overcrowding dealt with during 1921.—2.

Any special activity in house building, and where?—No.

Have the Council promoted, or assisted any public Utility Society in their district?—No.

Number of new Houses built during 1921 by private enterprise. (*a*) Working-class dwellings 6. (*b*) Other 1.

**State-aided Housing Schemes.**—Has Scheme been submitted as required by Section 1 of 1919 Act.—Yes. Estimated need for 200 houses. Scheme for 200 houses.

SITES.				LAY-OUTS.		HOUSE PLANS.				TENDERS.				Works commenced.		Houses occupied.	
Applications submitted.		Applications approved.		Submitted.	Approved.	Submitted.		Approved.		Submitted.		Approved.					
No.	Acreage.	No.	Acreage.	No.	No.	No. of Houses.		No. of Houses.		No. of Houses.		No. of Houses.		No. of Houses.		No. of Houses.	
						Scullery.	Parlour.	Scullery.	Parlour.	Scullery.	Parlour.	Scullery.	Parlour.	Scullery.	Parlour.	Scullery.	Parlour.
1	1·258	1	1·258	3	3	60	51	42	35	60	51	42	35	42	35	35	14
2	2·954	2	2·954														
3	5·900	3	5·900														

Any houses built by private enterprise under State Aided Housing Scheme? if so, give No. and type built.—6 Scullery houses.

Any regulations made in respect of underground sleeping rooms under (Sec. 17, 7) 1909 Act?—No. Any action thereunder?—No.

**Town Planning:**—Any scheme prepared during 1921. If so, give details.—No.

Any scheme contemplated? If so, for what area?—No.

Name and Address of Officer designated to make inspections under Article II. of Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910?—C. Firth, Town Hall, Ossett.

Signed, W. L. RENE WOOD, Medical Officer of Health.

23rd May, 1921.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S  
SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

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MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Seventeenth Annual Report.

In my last two Annual Reports it has been necessary to refer to the unprecedented economic condition of the country, which has seriously affected the natural progress of Sanitary administration. In each case I have expressed a hope that these conditions would quickly improve. Scarcity and high cost of materials of labour have been succeeded by stagnation in trade and the combination are still working against wholesale sanitary reforms. The advance, however, has been more marked than in the previous year, and the definite drop in all-round prices during the latter part of 1921 and the prospect of further reductions gives a brighter promise for 1922 than we have seen for some years.

The Pildacre water scheme, which shows definite promise of fruition, will relieve us from certain anxieties which have existed for a considerable number of years, and we can accelerate the conversion of our many privies to water-closets without the fears which previously confronted us.

Apart from this and the condition of certain private streets and yards the sanitary condition of the town is distinctly good.

A larger amount of overcrowding than we have been accustomed to in normal times certainly exists and is not easy to avoid, as we are suffering, in common with other districts, from a house shortage. The rent and rates of new property being erected are beyond the means of the majority of this class of tenant, even if they would be accepted as tenants, and the occupation of these by people who have previously had no separate accommodation has not caused a general move up as might other-

wise have been expected. The cost of building is now reaching an economic stage, when the erection of houses rather less than those now being constructed, with better bedroom accommodation than our existing dwellings, will no doubt attract tenants with growing families, and thus relieve the situation to a great extent. One cannot help thinking, however, that there are a few who will never alter their existing conditions without compulsion, and this, of course, cannot be used until alternative accommodation can be found for them.

At the time of writing the signs are brighter and many alterations have come within the range of practical solution that have not existed for several years past.

#### HOUSE REFUSE REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL.

Much improvement has been noticeable during 1921 in the progress of refuse removal. For nine months of the year we have had the extra team which you decided on when preparing the 1921-22 estimates. This has, of course, increased the wages bill, but has increased the efficiency in a much greater proportion, and complaints now are few. The total cost is £110 less than last year, but against that we have had no proportion of the capital charges to pay. We have, however, had rather large repairs bills, and the reductions in wages have not shown fully, so that during 1922 I have every confidence that the cost will nearly approach what we were previously paying for contract work, and, of course, the relative merits of the two systems speak for themselves.

#### REMOVAL.

	£	s.	d.
Team Labour—			
Wages and Bonus ... ..	908	14	6
Manual Labour—			
Wages and Bonus ... ..	377	5	7
	<hr/>		
	£1,286	0	1
	<hr/>		



## Cost of Stables—

Provender	...	...	...	...	...	...	285	15	11
Blacksmiths' Work	...	...	...	...	...	...	76	12	10
Cart and Harness Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	63	13	10
Veterinary Surgeon	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	17	0
Rent and Rates	...	...	...	...	...	...	34	0	0
Grazing	...	...	...	...	...	...	28	0	0
Repairs and Sundries	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	19	3
							<hr/>		
							£501 18 10		
							<hr/>		

Total ... .. £1787 18 11

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Total number of Ashpits and Bins emptied ... .. 16321

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.
Weight of Refuse to the Destructor	2749	9	0
Number of loads to Tips	2813		
Number of loads to Land	1178		
Total Refuse removed (allowing 1 ton for each load to Tip or Land)	6740	9	0
<hr/>			

Average weight per load to Destructor,  $21\frac{2}{3}$  cwts.

Cost per ton delivered at Destructor, Land or Tips

	s.	d.
(Team and Manual Labour)	3	9½

## DISPOSAL.

	£	s.	d.
Cost of Destructor—			
Stokers' Wages	546	0	3
Weighing	28	14	0
<hr/>			
	£574	14	3
War Bonus to Stokers and Weigh Clerk	179	14	8
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	£754	9	4
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	s.	d.
Gross cost per ton destroying ... ..	5	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
Gross cost per ton destroying (exclusive of war bonus)	4	2
Nett cost per ton destroying (i.e., deducting workmen's wages during the time destructor was set down and including bonus) ... ..	4	4

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Inhabited Houses ... ..	3793
Privies ... ..	1374
Water Closets (with Cisterns) ... ..	1090
Automatic Fresh-water Closets ... ..	26
Waste-water Closets ... ..	80
	<hr/>
	2570
	<hr/>
Privy Middens ... ..	586
Dry Ashpits ... ..	310
Ashbins ... ..	399
	<hr/>
	1295
	<hr/>

The above accommodation is for houses only and does not include schools, factories, public buildings, etc.

## GENERAL.

Legal Notices Served ... ..	17
Informal Notices Served ... ..	157

## DETAILED LIST OF NUISANCES ABATED.

Privies converted to W.C.s ... ..	27
Additional W.C.s provided ... ..	9
Privy-middens converted to Dry Ashpits or Bins ...	10
Privies or W.C.s repaired ... ..	35
Urinals cleansed or reconstructed ... ..	11
Ashpits and Bins provided ... ..	90
Ashpits reconstructed or repaired ... ..	14
Houses redrained ... ..	24
Drains repaired or ventilated ... ..	30

Drains cleared ... ..	57
Overcrowding ... ..	2
Defective eaves and fall pipes repaired ... ..	76
Defective roofs ... ..	35
Premises Limewashed ... ..	18
Offensive Accumulations removed ... ..	21
Nuisances in Workshops ... ..	34
Defective sink pipes repaired ... ..	30
Other Nuisances ... ..	12
	<hr/>
	535
	<hr/>

## HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING.

The Corporation's Housing Scheme has made considerable progress during the year, 47 houses being tenanted. More houses have also been built by private enterprise and 1922 bids fair to prove better still from this point of view. Although the Government have discontinued the subsidy to private builders the costs are so much reduced that house building by prospective owner and tenant has again become a practical proposition, and it is to be hoped that those in need of houses give this matter consideration.

Much more has been accomplished in the improvement of existing houses than was possible during 1920, and in the latter part many war-neglected delapidations have been remedied.

## SMOKE.

Periodical observations of the emission of smoke have been taken. Whilst on the whole these are fairly satisfactory, in spite of the bad trade, some improvement could be made in certain cases. The difficulty experienced in Ossett is chiefly due to extreme fluctuation of the steam load in our staple industry, and this can only be overcome by having ample boiler room.

## SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

Our thirteen slaughter-houses are all in a good structural state and in a cleanly condition.

It has not been necessary to condemn any meat, but two carcasses of beef and two of pork and other parts and organs have been voluntarily surrendered and destroyed.

### OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Eleven premises are now in use for offensive trades. These are all conducted in a cleanly manner and only two complaints have been received, which have been remedied.

### DISINFECTIONS.

The following houses have been disinfected after the existence of infectious diseases:—

Scarlet fever, 27; Diphtheria, 14; Enteric fever, 1; Suspected Enteric, 1; Consumption, 21; other causes, 2.

Schools have been disinfected on 11 occasions.

### COWSHEDS.

No alteration has been made in the number of cowsheds, which are all kept in a cleanly condition.

### FOOD AND DRUGS.

Fifteen samples of milk were submitted for analysis and five of other food stuffs. Two samples of milk were reported on as adulterated, but the circumstances were such that a warning from the Clerk to the County Council was considered sufficient.

### CONTAGIOUS DISEASES OF ANIMALS.

No outbreak of disease in animals has been reported during the year.

### HOSPITAL.

The Smallpox hospital has been again free from use. External and internal repairs and decorations have been carried out and we are in readiness for an outbreak should one occur.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

CHARLES FIRTH.





